Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A method of improving the properties of urea granulates, more especially the caking tendency, the dust formation and the foaming tendency in aqueous media, by the addition of an additive to the urea, characterized in that the additive comprises a carboxylic acid compound with the general formula XY-(Z)-COOH, in which Z is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon with 1-25 carbon atoms and X and Y are selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom or a polar organic functional group, and in that the additive is added as a solution in a polar solvent to the urea granulates, which are subsequently dried.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 characterized in that the polar solvent is water.

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 characterized in that Z has 2-5 carbon atoms.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the polar organic functional group is selected from a group consisting of a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amine group or an acetal group.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that X is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group and Y is a carboxylic acid group.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the aqueous solution has a concentration of 0.5-60 wt % of the carboxylic acid compound.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, characterized in that the concentration is 5-30 wt %.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that based upon the weight of urea, the concentration of the carboxylic acid compound is 100-10.000 ppm, preferably 500-3000 ppm.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that during the addition of the aqueous solution the temperature of the urea is 30-90°C, preferably 40-70° C.

10. (Currently amended - Withdrawn) ~~Carboxylic acid compound to be used in the method according to claim 1, characterized in that the~~ A urea granule having a compound of the ~~has the~~ general formula XY-Z-COOH in which Z is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon with 1-25 carbon atoms ~~C atoms~~, and X and Y are selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a ~~or a~~ polar organic functional group, on the surface of the granule.

11. (Currently amended - Withdrawn) ~~Compound~~ A urea granule according to claim 10, characterized in that Z has 2-5 carbon atoms.

12. (Currently amended - Withdrawn) ~~Compound~~ A urea granule according to claim 10, characterized in that the polar organic functional group is selected from a group consisting of a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amine group or an acetal group.

13. (Currently amended - Withdrawn) ~~Compound~~ A urea granule according to claim 11, characterized in that X is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group and Y is a carboxylic acid group.

14. (Currently amended - Withdrawn) ~~Composition to be used in~~ A urea granule produced by the method according to claim 1 ~~as a urea additive~~.